

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 243488

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

66614

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARN:AR DAY

APPROVED BY: THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTONJR

S/S-O:MTANNER

MPI NOTE: IN-HOUSE ONLY. FIELD ALREADY SVCD.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 243488

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 3 PARA 3 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: CAIRO 10183

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

1. AS YOU KNOW FROM YOUR DISCUSSIONS HERE, WE ARE INCREAS-  
INGLY CONCERNED ABOUT LEBANESE SITUATION. PROSPECTS SEEM  
ALL TOO GOOD FOR CONTINUED DETERIORATION AND ULTIMATE CIVIL  
WAR, WITH SERIOUS RISK OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI INTERVEN-  
TION AND CONSEQUENT POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF MIDDLE EAST CON-  
FLICT. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE  
POTENTIALLY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR EGYPT.

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2. WOULD LIKE YOU THEREFORE TO RAISE THE PROBLEM WITH

FAHMY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BEFORE ARAB FONMIN MEETING OCTOBER 15. WE WANT TO AVOID APPEARING TO INJECT OURSELVES INTO THIS INTRA-ARAB DELIBERATION, WHICH WE HOPE WILL FIND WAY TO HELP COPE WITH LEBANESE SITUATION, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS INCREASINGLY WORRYING PROBLEM.

3. WE OURSELVES HAVE NO PAT SOLUTION IN MIND FOR LEBANON. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE LONG-TERM SOLUTION THAT IS STABLE AND FAIR, NOT NECESSARILY BASED ON EXISTING DIVISION OF POWER THOUGH FULLY PROTECTING RIGHTS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SINCE SOLUTION WHICH FAILED TO DO SO WOULD ITSELF BE UNSTABLE.

4. TELL FAHMY WE HAVE NOTED EGYPTIAN ACTIVITY RELATIVE TO LEBANON AND CAN APPRECIATE DEGREE OF THEIR INTEREST. WE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN HOW FAHMY SEES THE PROBLEM AND WHAT HE THPNKS CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT, INCLUDING ANY STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE. IN LATTER RESPECT, YOU MAY TELL FAHMY THAT WE HAVE BEEN COUNSELING RESTRAINT TO ISRAELIS WITH SOME SUCCESS, BUT WE FEAR THAT ANY OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERVENTION INTO LEBANON WILL LEAD ISRAELIS TO INTERVENE THEMSELVES DESPITE OUR COUNSEL AND INTERESTS. YOU SHOULD ALSO MENTION SEPT 30 STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON OUR SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF LEBANON (STATE 233041). KISSINGER

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NNN

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